US Government & Politics (AI)

POLS 1100-502

Summer 2025

Course Section Information

Days: On-line

Time: Asynchronous Course

Campus: N/A

Classroom: N/A

Course Description

This course surveys the institutions and practices of the U.S. national government with emphasis placed on political institutions and political behavior.

Semester(s): All

Instructor Information

Name: Colin Moore

Email: colin.moore@slcc.edu

Phone: 801-957-3720

Office Location: [May be held in person or online depending on the nature of the class.]

Office Hours: [Office Hours will be on-line and held by appointment. We will work out a convenient time to meet. Of course, you can always contact me by email]

Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials

Authors: Glen Kurtz and Sylvie Waskiewicz

Publication Date: 2021

Title: American Government

Edition: 3e

Publisher: XanEdu Publishing Inc

Link: https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e

ISBN: SBN-13: 978-1-711493-96-1

Authors: David Hubert

Title: Attenuated Democracy

Subtitle: A Critical Introduction the U.S. Government and Politics

Publisher: SLCC Pressbooks

Link: https://slcc.pressbooks.pub/attenuateddemocracy/

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at ads@slcc.edu.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Analyze major institutions of US Government and Politics in their origins and processes, as well as their conceptual interpretations, to provide a historical and analytical foundation for understanding the meaning and implications of participatory democracy.

- Analyze the dynamics of power in US politics and government and how it shapes such issues as knowledge and cultural production, privilege, identity, gender, political economy, religion, environment and/or race relations.

- Find, analyze, and contextualize information from a variety of political science source materials, including primary documents and online resources.

- Examine and evaluate US political issues and apply this knowledge to analyzing and participating in contemporary social dialogue.

- Formulate arguments about US government and politics and be able to express that argument clearly and cogently in writing.

- Work with others in collaborative projects as well as through participation in live and/or on-line discussions and demonstrate the ability to engage a diversity of viewpoints in a civil and constructive fashion.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	What Questions Do You Have? (optional)	Discussion	0
6/19/25	Introduce Yourself via Video	Discussion	10
6/20/25	Mod 1B: WRS	Assignment	8
6/22/25	Course Introduction Quiz	Quiz	30
6/22/25	Mod 1B: Critical Thinking Responses	Discussion	14
6/27/25	Mod 2A: WRS	Assignment	8
6/27/25	Mod 2B: WRS	Assignment	8

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
6/29/25	Beginning Course Survey	Quiz	0
6/29/25	Mod 2A: CTR	Discussion	14
6/29/25	Mod 2B: CTR	Discussion	14
6/29/25	Quiz 1 Through the Federalism Chapter (40)	Quiz	40
7/4/25	Mod 3A: WRS	Assignment	8
7/4/25	Mod 3B: WRS	Assignment	8
7/6/25	Mod 3A: CTR	Discussion	14
7/6/25	Mod 3B: CTR	Discussion	14
7/6/25	Quiz 2-Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (40)	Quiz	40
7/11/25	Mod 4A: WRS	Assignment	8
7/11/25	Mod 4B: WRS	Assignment	8
7/13/25	Mod 4A: CTR	Discussion	14
7/13/25	Mod 4B: CTR	Discussion	14
7/18/25	Mod 5A: WRS	Assignment	8
7/18/25	Mod 5B: WRS	Assignment	8
7/20/25	Mod 5A: CTR	Discussion	14
7/20/25	Mod 5A: Interest Group Essay, First Draft	Assignment	200
7/20/25	Mod 5B: CTR	Discussion	14

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
7/20/25	Quiz 3- Chapters Interest Groups THROUGH Political Parties (40)	Quiz	40
7/25/25	Mod 6A: WRS	Assignment	8
7/25/25	Mod 6B: WRS	Assignment	8
7/27/25	Mod 6A: CTR	Discussion	14
7/27/25	Mod 6B: CTR	Discussion	14
7/29/25	Feedback for Interest Group Essay- THIS IS NOT YOUR FINAL DRAFT	Assignment	30
8/1/25	Mod 7A: WRS	Assignment	8
8/1/25	Mod 7B: WRS	Assignment	8
8/3/25	Mod 7A: CTR	Discussion	14
8/3/25	Mod 7B: CTR	Discussion	14
8/3/25	Mod 7B: Interest Group Essay- TURN IN FINAL DRAFT	Assignment	50
8/3/25	Quiz 4_ Congress, Presidency, Bureaucracy and the Courts (40)	Quiz	40
8/5/25	Mod 8A: WRS	Assignment	8
8/6/25	End of Course Survey- 4 points	Quiz	4
8/6/25	Mod 8A: CTR	Discussion	14

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
8/7/25	ePortfolio Assignment	Assignment	34
8/9/25	Final-PowerPoint and Recorded Presentation- 200 Points	Assignment	200

Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

Note to the instructor: *Consider adopting this template (or a similar format) for transparent assignment descriptions in the "Assignment Descriptions" section following.*

[Name of Assignment or Assignment Category]

Overview

Course Introductory Quiz: 30 points

- Complete the Course Introductory Quiz

"Introduce Yourself": 10 points

- Complete the Introductory Discussion.

Weekly Reading Summaries (WRS): 104 points

Critical Thinking Responses (CTR): 182 points

- Most weeks you will complete an analysis of the week's content through three critical thinking questions by SUNDAY NIGHT. Completing CTR's will not only provide a deeper understanding of the content but also develop your analytical skills. There is no CTR in Week 12.

Content Quizzes: 160 points

- You will take five quizzes in specific weeks which will deal with five specific sections of course content. The quizzes will be in multiple choice and short answer format and will be completed by each respective SUNDAY NIGHT.

Main Essay-Two Drafts: 250 points (Interest Group Essay first draft= 200/Final Draft 50)

- There is one main essay in this course and one possibility to turn in a final draft. The main purpose of the essay is to require you to demonstrate research skills, develop a thesis, and construct a rational argument on a specific topic. The essay will be on interest groups and will be 3 pages. You will turn in a first draft and then a final draft. The first draft is worth 200 points and the final draft is worth 50 points. Details on the essays will be in Canvas at their respective assignment portals.

Feedback on First Draft of Interest Group Essay: 30 points

- You will respond, in your own words, to the feedback I gave you for the first draft. I want you to process how I have corrected your essay and, thus, how to become a better writer.

Final- Video Presentation: 200 points.

- 10 minutes. I will determine each person's grade in the following way. 100 points=Content, 70 points= Organization, 30 points= Oral Delivery. You will record yourself giving an oral presentation that summarizes the slides you have created.
- The topics will become available on July 23 and the video presentation will be due on August 8.

ePortfolio: 34 points

- You will complete an ePortfolio assignment in this course. Completing this assignment will allow you to reflect on some of the coursework in this class and establish a general awareness of how it connects to other disciplines. You will upload your corrected Interest Group Essay to your e-Portfolio and write a reflection on the process of completing the assignment, how the content connects to other subjects and what you learned from the assignment.

More details related to each assignment can be found by clicking on the assignment and reviewing the assignment instructions. You can review the instructions to any assignment

by clicking on the Assignments tab and then clicking on a specific assignment.

Late Work

- Each assignment has a due date. That date is designed to keep you on an appropriate pace. However, given life's complexities, I have a late policy for some assignments.
- (Late Policy for the Interest Group Essay drafts, Quizzes, or the e-Portfolio Assignment. THERE IS NO LATE WORK FOR WEEKLY WRSs and CTRs UNLESS YOU USE A LATE PASS- SEE BELOW= 1. If completed or turned in three days AFTER the due date, penalty= -10%. 2. If turned in at a later date up to 8-8-25, penalty = -25%.)

*********EXCEPTION- I will allow 2 "FREE" passes for ANY assignment. If you turn it in up to one week late, then no late penalty will be assessed********

Grading Scale

A	B+	B	C+	C	D+
≥ 90%	≥ 87%	≥ 80%	≥ 77%	≥ 70%	≥ 67%
D	E				
≥ 60%	< 60%				

Engagement Plan

- I will respond to email within [insert your timeline]. I will offer feedback on major assignments within [insert your timeline]. The best way to contact me is through [the Canvas Inbox], as I will prioritize this method over other modes of communication.
- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements which will offer specific opportunities for class questions and extra credit every other week.

- Additionally, I will be participating in the discussion forums with you to share my perspective within the discipline and to offer some nuances of interpretation that may not be present in your textbook.
- Lastly, we'll be holding small group Q & A sessions, where we can learn from our peers (and faculty) on some of the more difficult units within the course.

How to Navigate to Canvas

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

How to Succeed in the Course

Become familiar with the course structure in Canvas.

Complete all assignments in a timely manner.

Communicate with your instructor as needed throughout the course.

Pay close attention to any course announcements.

Understand the basics of each section on US Government and Politics and understand the connections among the sections.

Additional Class Policies

Policy for Use of AI

The use of Artificial Intelligence programs can have a place in certain disciplines and scenarios in college courses. However, in the fields of History, Anthropology, and Political Science the use of AI to initiate, write, or edit your assignments is prohibited unless

permission is expressly given by the instructor. Part of the reason for a higher education degree is for you to learn how to learn by expanding your knowledge base and your ability to express your ideas through writing and other medium. Thus, programs such as Chat GPT, IBM Watson, Otter, Grammarly and all other AI programs similar to the above are not acceptable for this course to use as the main source for your writing. This kind of use constitutes cheating and plagiarism. If AI is suspected as used, the student will have to resubmit the assignment or receive a zero as a grade.

Details on AI and Plagiarism Policy

The easiest way not to have to deal with these details is to use your own words and quote minimally. The policy is explained in a few parts because Canvas does make things too simple.

Matching Score Policy (plagiarism or copying language of sources)= Assignment must be redone if over 30%

AI Score Policy= Assignment must be redone if over 50%

If you think you may cross the line, how can you know what your score is? READ BELOW

For CTR Assignments, Quizzes, Essays

****Canvas has no corresponding % score for these assignment types, so if you are worried about your Matching Score or AI Score then you need to do one of the following below****

TEACHER SCANNER TOOL WITHIN CANVAS

1) Once you have submitted an assignment in Canvas, open up a second window in our Canvas course that shows ALL the Modules

2) Find the "Copyleaks Teacher Scanner Tool" below Week 8

3) Click on "Teacher Scanner Tool" and open

4) For simply copying and pasting text into the program, click on the "three dots" to the left of "Scan Documents" then click "Scan Text"

5) 'Copy and Paste' the text into the program, then click "Scan" at BOTTOM and wait for results

6) When scan is completed, there will be a Plagiarism (Matching) Score and an AI Score

7) Remember, Matching Score must be 30% or less and AI Score 50% or less

Again, all this is only necessary to deal with if you fear your material will cross the acceptable line

ZERO GPT LINK (https://www.zerogpt.com/)- This can be used only for your AI score

Incomplete Policy

Contact me if the last day to withdrawal has already passed and circumstances beyond your control prevent you from successfully completing this course. This course will follow Salt Lake Community College's Incomplete policy. More information is available here (Links to an external site.).

ePortfolio

This course requires you to submit work in your SLCC ePortfolio. The ePortfolio can be a helpful aid for reflecting on your academic accomplishments. Reflection can be helpful in memory retention as well as connecting concepts between different courses and disciplines. For help getting started visit SLCC's ePortfolio page.

Plagiarism and Code of Conduct

Plagiarism may result in a failure of this course.

I recommend you read SLCC's Student Code of Conduct (Links to an external site.). This policy governs students' behavior.

Extra Credit

There are currently no extra credit opportunities in this course. If an extra credit opportunity is added, it will show up in the "Assignments" tab and I will send out an Announcement to let you know about it.

Fully Online

This this course is completed fully online. You do not need to come to the SLCC campus to complete any assignments. There are no required online (Zoom or other technology) meetings. Zoom will be used for on-line office hours and also is an option for students that would like to meet one-on-one to discuss course content further.

Plagiarism and Code of Conduct

Plagiarism may result in a failure of this course.

I recommend you read SLCC's Student Code of Conduct. This policy governs students' behavior.

Course Content Advisory

Please be advised that this course may include discussions, readings, and other content that some students might find distressing or triggering. Specifically, the course may cover topics such as:

- Violence or traumatic events
- Sensitive social and political issues
- Discussions of mental health, including depression and anxiety
- Graphic or explicit descriptions and imagery
- Any other specific content relevant to the course

Our aim is to explore these topics thoughtfully and respectfully, understanding their importance in our field of study. However, we recognize that such material can be challenging. If you have concerns about your ability to engage with certain course materials due to past experiences or personal reasons, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. We can explore alternative ways for you to engage with the material while ensuring your educational experience is not compromised.

Your well-being is important, and support services are available through the college's counseling support services should you need them.

General Education Information

General Education at SLCC

This course fulfills the **AI** requirement of the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed to teach you the core knowledge and skills of the discipline while also developing essential professional competencies and strategies for lifelong learning. General Education courses broaden your foundational skills and expand your understanding across diverse subjects. By integrating insights from various disciplines, you will learn to apply knowledge meaningfully, enrich your life, develop broader perspectives, deepen your understanding of the world, and challenge your assumptions.

ePortfolios

Each student in general education courses at SLCC is to create and maintain a General Education ePortfolio. Instructors in every general education course will ask you to put at least one assignment from the course (known as the "Signature Assignment") into your ePortfolio and accompany it with reflective writing.

The Many Uses of ePortfolios

Your General Education ePortfolio tells your SLCC learning story. Your ePortfolio enables you to introduce yourself to your professors and classmates, showcase your learning, and reflect on how your courses connect to each other, your life, goals, and community. The ePortfolio is intended to help you connect with other students and communicate with professors about how you learn, what you are taking away from your experience, and what supported your learning in their class. Professors can use your ePortfolio to get to know you before class and use your reflections and signature assignments to continuously improve their teaching.

Your General Education ePortfolio will also help you weave together the concepts you learn across all general education courses. To do this, each general education course you take at the college will ask you to demonstrate your engagement with the general education learning outcomes by designing a course-specific ePortfolio page that includes a course-specific "Signature Assignment" and reflection. When you finish your time at SLCC, your ePortfolio can provide a multimedia showcase of your educational experience and tell the story of your learning growth while at SLCC. You can learn more by visiting the ePortfolio help site.

Connect Your ePortfolio to MySLCC

For us to learn from your ePortfolio and provide effective support, your ePortfolio must be connected to your MySLCC account. To connect your portfolio to MySLCC:

1. Copy the URL for your ePortfolio from the web browser.
2. Click here and then click "Submit" under General Education ePortfolio.
3. Paste the link to your Welcome page and click "Save."
4. Finally, confirm that everything worked by clicking on the link and making sure it goes to your Gen Ed ePortfolio Welcome page.

Need Assistance?

If you would like virtual or in-person help with your ePortfolio please sign up here for an ePortfolio appointment . Questions regarding the ePortfolio can be directed to ePortfolio@slcc.edu

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the Institutional Syllabus page.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the Institutional Syllabus page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Online Tutoring

Students at SLCC have access to online tutoring through Canvas. From your Canvas course click Online Tutoring in the course navigation and follow the steps to set up an appointment. If this is your first time using the Online Tutoring we recommend you click "Take a Tour" to familiarize yourself with the service.

Note that students only receive 480 minutes of tutoring time each semester. After that we encourage you to use the resources found through this link:
https://www.slcc.edu/tutoring/index.aspx

If you have any additional questions reach out to elearningsupport@slcc.edu.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the Institutional Syllabus page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

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